

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05

FBIE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /149 W

----- 060648

R 301120Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS DOHA 1477

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ASEC, QA

SUBJ: QATAR PRESS REPORT ON OPEC KIDNAPPING

1. DEC 27 EDITION OF DOHA DAILY "AL ARAB" CARRIED INTERVIEW
WITH THREE QATARI DELEGATES TO VIENNA OPEC MEETING, ALL OF
WHOM WERE TAKEN HOSTAGE BY KIDNAPPERS. ACCOUNT BASICALLY
THE SAME AS WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED ON SUBJECT WITH TWO
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EXCEPTIONS: QATARI DELEGATE SAID KIDNAPPERS PLANTED EXPLOSIVES

IN OPEC BUILDING AND ALSO THAT HOSTAGES WERE SEPARATED INTO THREE GROUPS ON BASIS OF KIDNAPPERS' ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER COUNTRIES THEY REPRESENTED WERE HOSTILE, NEUTRAL OR FRIENDLY TO THEIR AIMS.

2. ACCORDING TO "AL ARAB", AHMAD ABU AZRA, MEMBER OF GOQ OPEC DELEGATION (DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS ALI JAIDAH), STATED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TERRORISTS HAD SEIZED THE DELEGATES, THEY PLACED EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IN THE MAIN MEETING HALL WHERE THE HOSTAGES WERE HELD. ABU AZRA DID NOT SAY WHETHER KIDNAPPERS REFERRED TO EXPLOSIVES AT ANY TIME.

3. PAPER ALSO QUOTED ABU AZRA AS SAYING THAT TERRORISTS SEPARATED THE DELEGATES INTO THREE GROUPS ACCORDING TO TERRORISTS' EVALUATION OF THEIR COUNTRIES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS AIMS OF GROUP: HOSTILE, NEUTRAL OR FRIENDLY. ABU AZRA SAID DELEGATES CLASSIFIED AS HOSTILE REPRESENTED SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, IRAN AND UAE. DELEGATES CONSIDERED NEUTRAL WERE ALL NON-ARAB: GABON, ECUADOR, VENEZUELA, INDONESIA AND NIGERIA. ABU AZRA SAID COUNTRIES CONSIDERED "FRIENDLY" BY TERRORISTS WERE ALGERIA, LIBYA, IRAQ AND KUWAIT. ABU AZRA MADE NO MENTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TREATMENT ACCORDED EACH GROUP DIFFERED. HE STATED THAT GROUPS WERE KEPT SEPARATE (BUT NOT ISOLATED FROM ONE ANOTHER) THROUGHOUT PERIOD HOSTAGES WERE IN VIENNA.
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